

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IGA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 CEQ-01

COA-01 EPA-01 IO-10 NSF-01 FEA-01 TVA-01 AGR-05 CU-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9948

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DEPT FOR OES/DR. RAY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TGEN, USIRJC, IR

SUBJ: COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & EDUCATION
OF U.S.- IRAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: STATE 011120

1. SUMMARY: AGENDA PROPOSED BY GOI AS FOLLOWS: (1) OCEANOGRAPHY, (2) BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, (3) SEISMIC STUDIES FOCUSING ON EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION AND GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION (4) APPLICATION OF REMOTE SENSORS, (5) ARID-LAND ECOLOGY, (6) DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR RADIO ASTRONOMY CENTER IN IRAN, AND (7) COOPERATION IN FIELD OF EDUCATION. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. DIXY LEE RAY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, AND MR. NELSON SIEVERING, PROGRAM COORDINATOR, OF OES MET JAN 21 WITH DR. BAHMAN PARSA, UNDERSECRETARY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL

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RESEARCH IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION,

TO DISCUSS THE AGENDA FOR THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & EDUCATION OF THE U.S.- IRAN JOINT COMMISSION. THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE MAIN POINTS FROM THE MEETING PREPARED BY THE EMBASSY'S SCIATT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN CLEARED BY DR. RAY.

3. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED A STRONG DESIRE TO MAKE THE COMMITTEE AN EFFECTIVE MECHANISM TO FACILITATE COORDINATION AND STIMULATION OF JOINT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION. ALTHOUGH TECHNOLOGY ENTERS INTO THE TITLE OF THE COMMITTEE, DR. PARSA SATED THAT HIS MINISTRY, ALTHOUGH PREPARED TO HELP WITH FUNDING AND ORGANIZATION OF RESEARCH CENTERS FOR DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES, EXPECTS

IRANIAN INDUSTRY TO IDENTIFY ITS NEEDS AND COME FORWARD WITH PROPOSALS TO THE GOI. SINCE ONLY THE OIL INDUSTRY IN IRAN HAS A RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT PRESENT, HE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ACTIVE IN THE TECHNOLOGY AREA AT THIS TIME.

4. IT WAS AGREED THAT AN EARLY ITEM ON THE AGENDA OUGHT TO BE CONSIDERATION AND AGREEMENT ON ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK AND FUNDING, E.G. HOUSEKEEPING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. THE U.S. SIDE SUGGESTED THAT WORKING PARTIES ON EACH SIDE SHOULD BE SMALL BUT WITH WIDE REPRESENTATION. THEY SHOULD HAVE A CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING. THE COMMITTEE SHOULD SEEK TO COMPLEMENT AND COORDINATE WORK UNDER EXISTING BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS

BETWEEN AMERICAN AND IRANIAN UNIVERSITIES RATHER THAN SUPPLANTING THEM. DR. PARSA SPECULATED THAT THE COMMITTEE MIGHT CARRY FORWARD THE WORK OF THE 1968 AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, BUT HE WAS INFORMED THAT THAT AGREEMENT HAD LAPSED AND THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO MAKE A FRESH START.

5. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT DR. PARSA IS THINKING PRIMARILY OF ACADEMIC RATHER THAN APPLIED RESEARCH. A NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CHAIRED BY THE QUEEN WILL BE FORMED IN APRIL. IT WILL HAVE POLICY DIRECTION OVER A NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER WHICH WILL FORM RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN PARTICULAR DISCIPLINES ACCORDING TO NEED. ONE OF THE FIRST TASKS OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL WILL BE TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES AMONG THE RESEARCH DISCIPLINES.

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6. DR. PARSA WAS VERY INTERESTED IN HOW THE GOI MIGHT GO ABOUT ATTRACTING AMERICAN SCHOLARS TO IRAN TO GIVE AN IMPETUS TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND THIS SUBJECT PROBABLY OUGHT TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING. HE IS INTERESTED IN ATTRACTING PERSONS WHO CAN ORGANIZE RESEARCH PROGRAMS, CREATE A PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT, AND GIVE A LEAD TO IRANIAN SCIENTISTS.

7. THE GOI IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN FOSTERING STUDIES OF THE

PERSIAN GULF. IRAN HAS NO EXPERTISE IN OCEANOGRAPHY BUT HAS MADE INITIAL CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN INSTITUTES TO DEVELOP IT. DR. RAY EMPHASIZED THAT LITTLE USEFUL RESEARCH CAN BE DONE IN OCEANOGRAPHIC RE- SEARCHVESSELS,COASTAL LABORATORIES,FLOATING PLATFORMS, AND UNDERWATER HABITATS TO COLLECT DATA. DR. PARSA STATED THAT GOI INTEREST IN OCEANOGRAPHY HAD BEEN STIMULATED BY A RECENT UNESCO VISIT AND REALIZATION OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO FISHERIES AND OIL POLLUTION.

8. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT APPLICATIONS OF REMOTE SENSING, IT WAS APPARENT THAT DR. PARSA THOUGHT THIS COULD BE COMBINED WITH EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING FROM A GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITE AND HAD ONLY THE HAZIEST IDEA WHAT APPLICATIONS REMOTE SENSING MIGHT HAVE. THE EMBASSY'S SCIATT WILL SEND HIM SOME LITERATURE ON ERTS APPLICATIONS IN THE HOPE THAT BY THE TIME OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HE WILL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF POSSIBILITIES FOR IRAN IN THIS AREA.

9. DR. PARSA WAS EQUALY VAGUE CONCERNING THE GOI'S INTEREST IN ARID-LANDS ECOLOGY BUT WAS INCLINED TO THINK THAT IT WAS FOCUSED MAINLY ON RECLAMATION. HE REPORTED THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRI- CULTURE WAS DOING SOME EXPERIMENTATION ON TREATMENT OF DESERT SOILS FOR CULTIVATION. THE SCIATT IS ALSO AWARE THAT AN ARID-LANDS PRO- GRAM INITIATED BY UNESCO SOME YEARS AGO HAS BEEN CONTINUED BY THE INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AT TEHRAN UNIVERSITY. IT IS MULTI-DISCI- PLINARY BUT HAS SOME EMPHASIS ON GEOMORPHOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL STUDIES.

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10. THE GOI'S INTEREST IN RADIO ASTRONOMY STEMS FROM AN ASPIRATION OF SOME PROFESSOR AT ARYAMEHR TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY. DR. RAY SUGGESTED IRAN SHOULD HAVE EXCELLENT CONDITIONS FOR OPTICAL ASTRONOMY, BUT IF IRAN WANTED TO GET INTO RADIO ASTRONOMY IT SHOULD BE PUT IN TOUCH WITH GREENBANK UNDER THE BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY.

1. GEOLOGY IS INCLUDED IN THE GOI'S AGENDA ITEM MENTIONING GEOPHYSICS AND SEISMOLOGY, BUT DR. PARSA WAS UNAWARE OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF IRAN'S INTEREST IN RECEIVING REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE USGS.

12. RE COOPERATION IN FIELD OF EDUCATION, DR. PARSA SEES THIS AS (1) ASSISTANCE TO IRAN IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND (2) HIGH LEVEL MANPOWER TRAINING. THE FREE UNIVERSITY OF IRAN IS BEING ESTABLISHED ON THE LINES OF BRITAIN'S OPEN UNIVERSITY, I.E. HIGHER EDUCATION BY CORRESPONDENCE, TV, AND THE LIKE, INCLUDING THE USE OF A COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE TO BEAM PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE GOI IS INTERESTED IN BOTH THE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIRED.

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THE HIGH LEVEL MANPOWER ASPECT REFERS TO IRAN'S NEED FOR RAPID TRAINING IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. DR. PARSA WISHES TO FACILITATE EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE US AND IRAN; BRINGING IRANIAN STUDENTS TO THE US FOR STUDIES AND ENCOURAGING AMERICAN SCHOLARS TO COME TO IRAN FOR 1-3 YEARS TO HELP ORGANIZE AND CARRY OUT RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

13. DR. PARSA SAID HE WOULD NOW CHOOSE HIS DELEGATION FOR EXPERTISE IN THE ABOVE AGENDA SUBJECTS, BUT IT WILL PROBABLY BE TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT HE WILL RANGE FAR OUTSIDE HIS OWN MINISTRY, OR POSSIBLY TEHRAN UNIVERSITY, FOR HIS COMMITTEE MEMBERS. WE CANNOT THEREFORE, ASSUME THAT HIS DELEGATION WILL BE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH WHAT OTHER UNIVERSITIES OR OTHER BRANCHES OF THE GOI ARE DOING IN THESE FIELDS. NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL DO OUR BEST IN FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH DR. PARSA AND OTHERS TO SEE IF GOI REPRESENTATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF AGENDA ITEMS CANNOT BE UPGRADED BEFORE COMMITTEE MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

MIKLOS

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